

Over Flowing Joy...In Hard Times!

"Overflow" Series- Part 04

Share/Connect time: *If you could live inside of any movie, what movie would it be and what character would you play?*

Formulas That Work...

- Think of a number.
- Double it.
- Add 10.
- Halve it.
- Take away your original number.

The answer is _____!

Here's another formula to consider: **P + T = JG** (Poverty + Trouble = Joyous Generosity)
How does this formula make sense?

Book: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

2Co 8:1 Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in His kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia.

2Co 8:2 They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

2Co 8:3 For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.

2Co 8:4 They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.

2Co 8:5 They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

2Co 8:6 So we have urged Titus, who encouraged your giving in the first place, to return to you and encourage you to finish this ministry of giving.

2Co 8:7 Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.

2Co 8:8 I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches.

2Co 8:9 You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty He could make you rich.

2Co 8:10 Here is my advice: It would be good for you to finish what you started a year ago. Last year you were the first who wanted to give, and you were the first to begin doing it.

2Co 8:11 Now you should finish what you started. Let the eagerness you showed in the beginning be matched now by your giving. Give in proportion to what you have.

2Co 8:12 Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have.

2Co 8:13 Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality.

2Co 8:14 Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal.

2Co 8:15 As the Scriptures say, "Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough."

Let's get into the Word:

How would you describe the people who comprised the church at Macedonia based on the information provided in 2 Cor. 8:1-5:

Which of the many descriptions of the Macedonian believers jumps out at you and why?

Why do you suppose the Macedonian church found joy in giving when they themselves were hurting?

Can you remember an instance or situation in your life where you were generous during a very trying time (financially, emotionally, etc). How did that generous gift work out for the recipient? How did it work out for you?

Look at verse 7. The Corinthian church was overflowing or excelling in many areas. What did the Corinthian Church have to offer to its community?

Why is giving also a necessary "overflow" from any church?

Reviewing verses 10-15, a gift that pleases God should meet what criteria?

A challenge to consider:

How does the example of the Macedonian Church challenge your own personal giving?

How can practicing generosity build your faith and bring joy to your life and those you bless?